

Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.

WILSON, LARRY DAVID. 1985. *Tantilla flavilineata*.

Tantilla flavilineata Smith and Burger

Tantilla flavilineata Smith and Burger, 1950:117. Type-locality, "8 miles southeast of Nochixtlan, Oaxaca, Mexico." Holotype, Univ. Illinois Mus. Natur. Hist. 6321, adult female, collected 23 August 1949 by Jack and W. Leslie Burger (examined by author).

- CONTENT. No subspecies are recognized.

- DEFINITION AND DIAGNOSIS. A species of *Tantilla* with a pale middorsal stripe occupying the middorsal scale row and adjacent halves of the paravertebral rows and a pale lateral stripe only slightly paler than the ground color on row 4 and adjacent halves of rows 3 and 5. The ground color is cream to pale tan. A diffuse dark stripe of varying intensity courses down the center of most dorsal scale rows. The venter is largely creamy white. The head pattern consists of a complete pale nuchal collar, which may or may not cross the posterior portion of the parietals but does cross the ultimate supralabial. The remainder of the head is more or less uniform brown but for pale markings on the supralabials (usually in the form of pre- and postocular pale spots). Ventrals and subcaudals range from 152 to 164 and 43 to 52, respectively. *Tantilla flavilineata* may be distinguished from all congeners by possession of a pale middorsal stripe occupying the middorsal and adjacent halves of the paravertebral scale rows, a pale lateral stripe on row 4 and adjacent halves of rows 3 and 5, a pale nuchal collar crossing the ultimate supralabial, diffuse dark stripes on the scales of the dark fields, 152-164 ventrals and 43-52 subcaudals.

- DESCRIPTIONS. The best descriptions of this species are those of Smith and Burger (1950) and Wilson and Meyer (1971).

- ILLUSTRATIONS. Wilson and Meyer (1971) provided pen-and-ink drawings of lateral, dorsal, and ventral views of the head, as well as the dorsal color pattern.

- DISTRIBUTION. *Tantilla flavilineata* is known from intermediate elevations (ca. 1890-2100 m) of the central portion of the Mexican state of Oaxaca.

- FOSSIL RECORD. None.

- PERTINENT LITERATURE. The literature on this species consists of descriptions of the snake; its distribution and habitat; and relationships (Smith and Burger, 1950; Wilson and Meyer, 1971; Wilson, 1982, 1983a); comparisons to other newly-described, related nominal taxa (Smith and Smith, 1951; Smith and Williams, 1966); and summary information on its biology (Wilson, 1983b).

- ETYMOLOGY. The name *flavilineata* is derived from the Latin *flavus*, meaning "yellow," and *lineatus*, past participle of *lineare*, meaning "to fashion into a straight line," in reference to the pale middorsal stripe present in this species.

LITERATURE CITED

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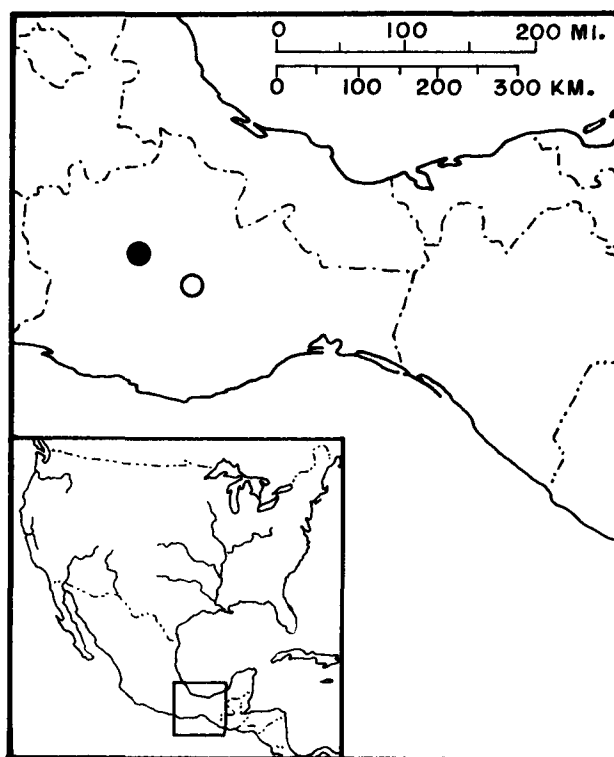
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MAP. Solid circle marks type-locality; open circle indicates the other known locality for the species.